



Story Behind the Curve

This HEDIS measure is 100% hybrid, meaning that you cannot collect any data through administrative claims. Blood pressure readings taken directly from the patient's medical record are required to run this measure. Therefore, the DVHA did not establish baseline for the Controlling High Blood Pressure measure until 2014 when we first used the hybrid data collection specifications for this measure.

This intermediate-outcome measure looks at whether blood pressure was controlled among adults 18-85 years of age who were diagnosed with hypertension. Control is demonstrated by the following criteria:

- Medicaid members 18-59 years of age whose blood pressure was <140/90 mm Hg.
- Medicaid members 60-85 years of age with a diagnosis of diabetes whose blood pressure was <140/90 mm Hg.
- Medicaid members 60-85 years of age without a diagnosis of diabetes whose blood pressure was <150/90 mm Hg.

The specifications of this measure are consistent with current clinical guidelines, such as those of the USPSTF and the Joint National Committee. Treatment to improve hypertension includes dietary and lifestyle changes, as well as appropriate use of medications.